

on a level with genocide and other war crimes. We must ensure that we, the civilized countries of the world, undertake never to use ecocide again.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF KEVIN
J. CONNOLLY FOR OUTSTANDING
SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that today I pay tribute to a dedicated and highly respected member of the North Haven Police Department—and a dear friend—whose decision to retire ended a career in law enforcement which spanned thirty years. Chief Kevin J. Connolly leaves a legacy of integrity and commitment to excellence which will not be forgotten by his fellow officers or the citizens of North Haven.

Kevin has dedicated nearly a third of his career to leading the Department of Police Services with dignity and commitment. He has had a profound effect on the quality of life in North Haven. Nine departmental commendations, as well as various other professional accolades from local and national agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service, reflect the commitment and devotion Kevin has given to North Haven and its residents. Throughout his career, Kevin has exemplified the best qualities we associate with law enforcement officials.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Kevin on several issues in the time I have served in Congress. He was a tremendous help to me and my staff on the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994,

lending not only his knowledge and expertise, but his strong support as well. More recently he has been an invaluable resource for the many forums I have held on youth violence. As our community grapples with the pressing issue of school violence, Kevin's efforts never cease to exceed everyone's expectations. Understanding that our young people need to trust their local police force, Kevin has implemented community policing in the North Haven school district, fostering relationships with the students and curbing violence. His advocacy and hard work is a remarkable example of how law enforcement officials can partner with the community to ensure that our children are safe in their classrooms.

With his outstanding record of good work, he has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service—leaving an indelible mark on the North Haven community. It is with great pride that I join with his wife, Judy, his children, Kevin, Megan and Tara, friends, colleagues, and community members to honor my good friend, Police Chief Kevin Connolly for his outstanding service to our community. I wish him many years of continued health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING VERNICE MCKELLAR ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vernice McKellar on the occasion of her 100th birthday which she celebrated on June 24th, 2000. Mrs. McKellar has dedicated her life to helping others and improving her community.

Vernice McKellar was born in Kansas, but spent the majority of her years in California. At the age of seven, her family settled in Lindsay. After graduating from Lindsay High School in 1917, Vernice went on to become a registered nurse at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara in 1926. Vernice McKellar was married to Hugh A. McKellar in 1928 and moved to Ivanhoe where she and her husband farmed a successful Sunkist Orange Ranch, which she still takes part in operating.

Vernice has been an active member of the community. Her daughter, Norene March, describes her as "community minded." Her activities include volunteering for the American Red Cross, volunteer nursing in the community, and working with the PTA. Vernice is proud that she voted for the first time at age 21 and has not missed voting in an election since. Vernice encourages her friends to contribute to the Ivanhoe Youth Center in hopes of providing activities for youth and reducing gang activity in Ivanhoe.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vernice McKellar and congratulate her on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote #429 due to a late flight. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes or Aye on rollcall vote #429.